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UTSC's student newspaper since 1980

The Underground

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

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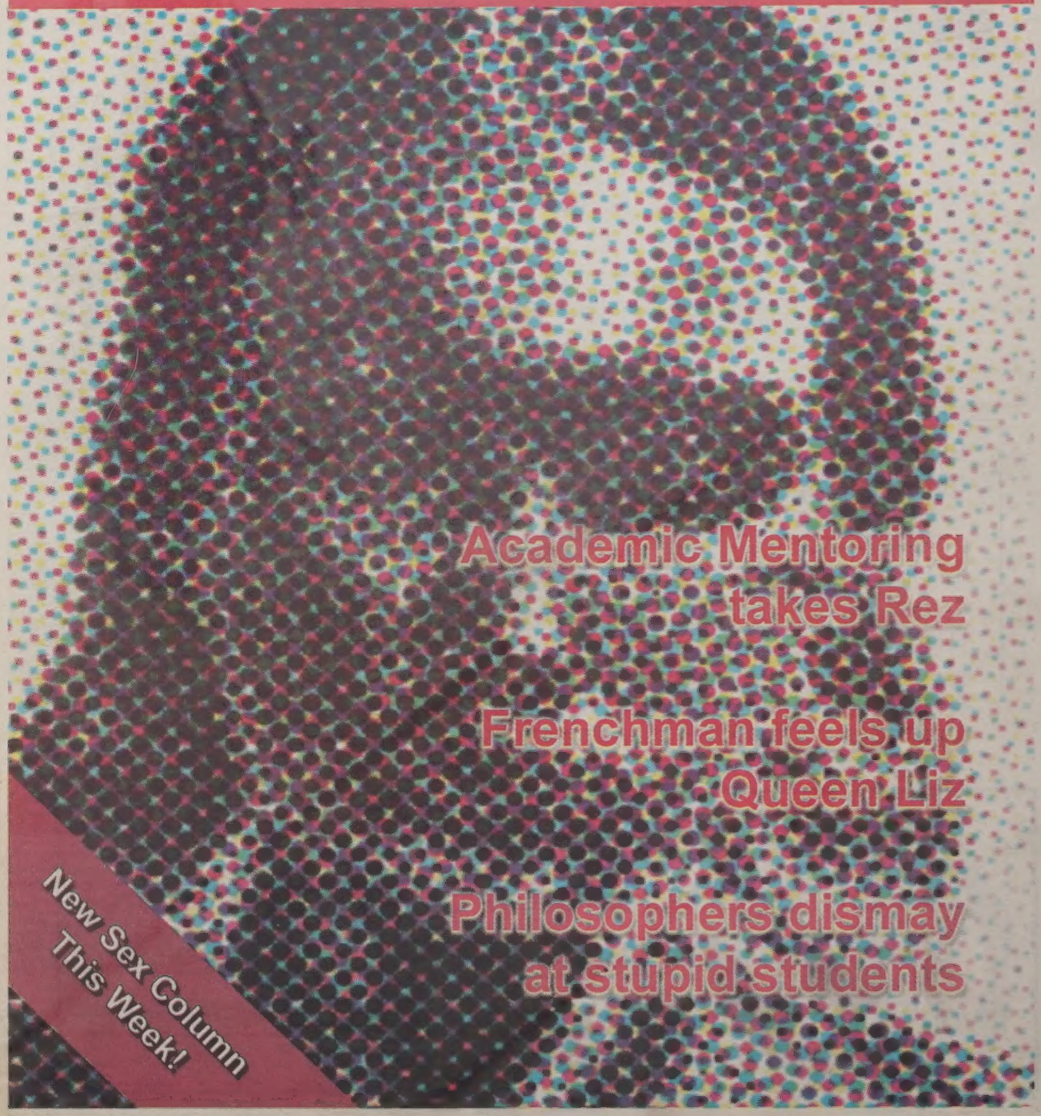

Academic Mentoring takes Rez

Frenchman feels up Queen Liz

Philosophers dismay at stupid students

New Sex Column This Week!

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There will be a general meeting of the Scarborough Campus Students' Press on November 6th, at 8:00 p.m. in Rm S-364.

If you're interested in taking on one of the positions listed above, please plan to attend.

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Contributors:
Cpl. Chris Moy, Three Drunken Philosophers, Keescha Beauchamp, Matt Capper, Nathan Barnard

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At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous or malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

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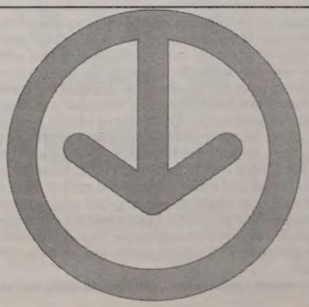
Contacting the Underground Staff

For all inquiries, please use the contact information below. Advertising questions and information should be directed to Chris McKinnon.

Mail: The Underground, U of T Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Room S-364 (in the portable)
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4
Phone: 416.287.7054
Fax: 416.287.7055
Email: undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca
Web: http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/~undergnd/



editorial

Tiny Tim's doesn't make UTSC a better place...

Okay UTSC, that's about enough. No more of your ridiculous fawning over the new Tim-fucking Hortons... That's right buster, I'm talking to you: the guy with the artificial-peach drink clutched in your little "Timmie's"-obsessed hand and that half-stunned smile sitting crooked on your face. Cut that out.

I know their coffee is strong, the way you need it to be after you've just pulled off an all-night cram session in those rotten S-wing cubicles (I can't believe some of you crazy-bastards even do that!) And yes, by god, their sandwiches are, indeed, fresh, made before your eyes on baguettes now, I'm told.

But, have we already forgotten how VERY extraordinarily late the grand opening of said coffee shop (or should I call it a booth, maybe a counter...) came? Didn't someone tell us that we'd be smelling the fine aroma of Canada's favourite coffee and doughnut retailer in September of 2002? Hmm, I suppose it was just another one of those beautiful dreams about a university that keeps promises and doesn't forget to investigate zoning-by-laws and procure building permits before it commits itself to constructing new buildings. Well, if Tim Horton's was on-campus in September, then I surely didn't see it. Where could it have been hidden? Was the coffee being hoarded in some part of the school that I don't frequent, like the KEY perhaps, or the ATTIC? Wherever the coffee was for the month of September (hiding in red-tape limbo-land, waiting on a building permit or some SuperBuild Funding; perhaps a little help from Centennial College was what finally kicked things into gear) it is really quite clear that it wasn't at UTSC. So with that whole extra month for second thoughts and improvements, mightn't the "SMRT" folks that dreamed up the stylish "Timmie's" addition to the Bladen Foyer have at least tried to anticipate the extraordinary DEMAND for double-doubles and crullers with a little more accuracy? (Is there an Economics prof in the house? We need one in here to help these folks figure out what 'demand' is...) Could it possibly have been conceived by those project overseers that, what with UTSC's total student, staff and faculty population hovering somewhere around 6000 strong and growing; and what with the vile-tasting ass-flavoured coffee found in the rotten H-Wing cafeteria being the only other "coffee" on-campus (and no, before you even ask such a stupid question, let me repeat: No. That ridiculous coffee vending-machine does not count, should be removed at once, is a disgrace to the very idea of caffeinated coffee-bean based beverages everywhere, and so on...); and what with the nearest available coffee fit-for-consumption being at least 10 minutes walk off-campus... could it really have been conceived that such a piddling little not-quite-a-real Tim Horton's should service all of us fiending caffeine-addicts with only two registers, one sandwich-maker and hardly enough space for the staff to pass each other behind that counter without knocking down the rack of doughnut-holes or slopping scalding-hot cappuccinos on one-another? Is the keen-intellect behind this ingeniously common-nonsense layout available for comment? I should surely like to pick that brain...

I mean really, was it possible to miss out on all the "GROWTH" posturing and propaganda on this campus? Can you read this: 50% increase in students. A (very) conservative estimate might be that we don't end up getting all fifty percent of that increase, that instead of 50% we grow by more like 30% (note, dear reader, that this is most unlikely to happen. But for the purpose of demonstrating this point I will suffer some underestimation.) If we figure in students alone, since they make up the bulk of UTSC'ers, we might see UTSC hit a population of about 7000. Maybe only a third of us will be coffee-drinkers by then, the rest having given up the caffeine habit. And of that third, maybe half will either skip their morning cup or have it at home. That will leave roughly 1200 coffee-drinkers that need to be serviced, on-campus, at that little coffee-station they've built there by the Bookstore. Villages with populations smaller than 1200, in rural areas of the Province of Ontario for example, regularly support full-size, 24-hour Tim Horton's shops (usually in addition to other, some would say inferior, doughnut and coffee shops). Mightn't it have been prudent to build UTSC a Tim Horton's that would suit our needs? Our demands? And the size of our coffee-drinking and fresh-sandwich-seeking demographic?

The CONGESTION has already begun in the hallways at peak times (between classes, or first thing in the morning). A silly yellow rope meant to keep the line-up in check as it stretches through the *Hall of Excellence* does not make these sorts of gross miscalculations go away. The very fact of the matter is that this freshly plastered Tim Horton's is plainly and simply not large enough. The centrality of the location causes nasty traffic jams, and if there's anything I hate more than facing the acute pains of my caffeine addiction while I'm waiting in line behind a couple of fawning Timmie's cheerleaders waving their rah-rah-motherfuckin pompoms and giggling about how nice it is to finally have a real, though I must interject: aggravatingly tiny and poorly situated, coffee-shop on campus; it's getting stuck in the hallway when I'm already five minutes late for class, because 600 more of those no-good motherfucking brain-dead cheerleaders and their tittering chums, pals and "guy-guy-yo-guy" <finger-snap optional> automatons are crammed into the same freakin' hallway trying to get some 'chicken-stew in a bread-bowl'. Well, fuck it! I don't care if you can eat the bowl; the stew is ***so mediocre*** and the bread's as ***stale*** as grandma.

Whatever this business is at UTSC where we latch onto anything new or better, cling to it, and talk about it like it makes us special and vindicates all the badness we've suffered through, and we try to convince ourselves that UTSC really sucked... Until now. Now, with the introduction of "nice/good" thing (which incidentally seems often to be cosmetic, like new lockers) we have stepped away from the badness of that chapter of UTSC History, into a new chapter where nice/good thing represents a new golden era of happiness and harmony at UTSC, free from the badness of before: class in tents, libraries without hardly any books at all, a pub tucked up in the top of the Bladen Building that hasn't been open for regular business in ages. But hey, the nice/good thing erases all that, in this case with a snack pack of Timbits.

What? What *IS* that? Man, whatever that is, it sounds like crazy-talk and it's got to stop. This Tim Horton's should have been on campus long before now. The demand has always been here; anyone who's old enough will be hard-pressed to forget the Dark Days of the evil Coffee Time, it's beverages also hinting of that faint "goût d'ass"; and they will also remember how many Tim Horton's coffee-cups were to be found littered around the school at all hours of the day or night, and they might even remember seeing desperate students from the residences climbing up the hill to Neilson Plaza through sleet or freezing-rain or snowstorms to get to the Tim Hortons there, in all its full-sized operation with 24-hour drive-through glory. And now that Aramark, or Food Services or whoever has finally brought in the right franchise, well shucks kids, they didn't bother to build it big enough. That line-up won't be getting any shorter with all those brand-spanking newly-graduated high-school brats rolling in here next fall. My patience, on the other hand, wears exceedingly thin.

Don't expect that this mess will get cleaned up any time soon. It's like moving the Bookstore into a smaller space last year even though there will be more and more students needing to get into the store. Don't like the line-ups? Tough. Get your books online. The Tiny Tim's goes right down in the books with that gazebo off the H-Wing patio that was condemned right after it was erected. Ladies and gentlemen, another dazzling display of solid planning from those sharp bureaucratic-types upstairs. Why on god's earth you'd think to stick a gazebo that big on the edge of the big sinkhole that is the Valley is beyond me... How such a blundering initiative eluded the critical eye of the UTSC community as a whole, especially given the presence of some sort of pre-eminent Soil Erosion Laboratory on just the opposite side of the S-Wing... Well, that one leaves me flummoxed. Why worry about doing things right the first time? Why worry about anything at all? Why not stand up in line, pompoms held high-overhead, and declare to the world that UTSC does not suck! UTSC does not suck, because now we have a Tim Hortons, where we can get hyper-caffeinated coffee to keep us awake and tuna-sandwiches "made-fresh-before-your-eyes".. Shake your ass and give me a "T-I-M. H-O-R-T-O-N-S." What does that spell? You guessed it. It spells "UTSC doesn't suck anymore because we've got a COFFEE SHOP that's too small; so small in fact that it can't even handle the morning rush without blocking a MAIN ARTERIAL HALLWAY and disrupting the movement of students to and from their ACADEMIC COURSES."

Chris McKinnon
Editor in Chief

"The more things change, the more they are the same."
- Alphonse Karr (1808-1890)

opinions

The Earth is about to Die Screaming:

Didn't anyone at this university attend high school?

There is something going on in our school that I cannot quite understand. I hear the discontent in the hallways. I see it scribbled in study spaces. But the fact that you are in the school and sitting at the study spaces seems to contradict the very thing you are saying. You say you hate school. You don't want to be here. Yet you come back, every year, and pay $6000 tuition fee. You waste your time, and mine in turn, as you come into class late, after a fifteen-minute mid-class break, giggling, carrying your Tim Horton's coffee and crumpling that little paper bag holding your donut. Every one turns and looks, the professor pauses momentarily; concentration broken.

Why are you here? You have no desire to be.

I cannot understand.

To further the problem, there seems to be another odd circumstance that I'm not quite sure I grasp either. As Drunken Philosopher The Other suggested, "There are some students here who arguably never attended high school." I do not know the actual numbers, but I do believe that most of the students here are from Ontario and attended high school in Ontario. I did not attend high school in Ontario, so I cannot say that I know what Ontario high school is like. But I cannot imagine that it is too terribly different than the high school I went to. I cannot believe that they did not teach you basic study skills, basic essay writing skills, or basic skills of any sort. Yet I find in every class that I attend that I am encountering immeasurably unnerving peculiarities. Last year, in an introductory English course, the professor had come across a general problem in students' writing so many times that she felt the need to bring it to the attention of the class. The problem was the use of complete sentences. Here I am, first year of university, and I am being reminded, "Do not use sentence fragments." (M. Bannerman) While this is incredible in its self, the professor's list goes beyond just that. I was so incredulous that I wrote the entire list down so I could to show it to other people, and ask them if it was possible that I was the one whose mind wasn't working quite right. But my amazement was shared. Here are a few more problems that recurred so many times that she felt the need to specifically address them: "Spell author's name correctly. Punctuate titles-novels, poems, short stories, plays-correctly. [. . .] Use apostrophes correctly, especially its, it's. Use the correct form of there/they're/their. [. . .] Indent paragraphs. [. . .] Know the form of a work you are discussing." Should I continue? How about a review of ideas in Writing Workshop? Regarding essays, the class most intelligently thought of the following during a mid-year review: "Intros are important! Be specific; use details. Be prepared. Have a good conclusion." That wonderful list could continue just as long as the former list, but I think you feel what I'm saying here.

I just stated that my amazement about these difficulties was shared. So where are these students who need these reminders and reinforcements? I can only assume that some of the readers of this article are the same students whose essays inspired the need for these infantile reviews of writing. Where do you come from?

I would *like* to make a concession to some argument that the instances I have just spoken of were first year classes, and that the purpose of these classes are to be, as they are labeled, introductory courses to their respective disciplines. But I will not and I cannot make that concession. In a second year English course I am taking - one that has the prerequisite of passing two introductory English courses - I still encounter the question, "What do you expect of us on the essay for the mid-term?" Should there be anyone in their second year of university who does not understand that when one has an essay on their exam it means that one must write a formal essay which does nothing more than, but nothing less than, answer the goddamn essay question? In the words of Drunken Philosopher Some Other, in response to a philosophy lecture made particularly dry and absurd by a handful of ignorant students, "I cannot believe that this is second year university."

So what do you want from your $6000 a year? You don't want to be here. You skip class on a regular basis. When you do attend class you are late, or you just make a general nuisance of yourself. It seems unfathomable that you even got accepted. Though it is impossible for you to be here without a high school diploma it doesn't appear that you attended high school at all. Please help me; I have no idea what to think of it all.

This is an institution of higher learning, where question-asking is encouraged, and rightfully should be. However, there should be a line drawn as to what exactly is a question worthy of the attention of a professor, or, indeed, anybody. It would certainly seem that the professors of our school are no less troubled by the student body than We Three Drunken Philosophers.

As a last remark I would like to pose a question to the UPSI: Is it ethical for either a student or professor to bring to the attention of the class the sheer ridiculousness of another student's question?

On behalf of We Three Drunken Philosophers,
I remain most sincere,
Drunken Philosopher An Other

Editor's Note: I realise that the headline above has no relevance to this article whatsoever. But you read it anyway, didn't you?

Hate our guts? Wish we were dead?

Send any opinions or letters to the editor to:

Editor-in-chief
The Underground, U of T Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Room S364
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4

or email undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca with "Opinion" or "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

(By the way, we're total masochists; we'll print whatever you send us.)

comment

comment

Say Quoi?

Frog In My Throat

Merika I. Ramundo

Every week I pick up a NOW Magazine and the first thing I do is flip to the last page and read Dan Savage's column Savage Love. I love the Savage Love. I love the Savage Love because people are not afraid to write to Dan about anything and everything having to do with sex (UTSC Underground readers should use this statement as an example of good readership and write me)! Bestiality, sado-masochism, golden showers, adultery, relationships of any kind - you name it, he's written about it and definitely voices his opinion on it. Last week's entry (October 17th - 23rd edition) was no exception, except that Dan pissed me off by insulting French Canadians. I'm not going to get into the proverbial nuts and bolts of the article because you can read it for yourself, but in a nutshell Mr. Savage likened U.S. religious groups to French Canadians stating that "As far as I'm concerned, French Canadians and religious jackasses are six of one, half dozen of the other."

Now call me crazy, but I have to disagree with him on this one. I was born and raised in Quebec and even though I'm not French Canadian myself, as far as I'm concerned, French Canadians are fantastic people.

Here are my top 10 reasons why we should all embrace Quebeckers:

10. All you double-cohorters can get a jump start on your alcohol consumption. The legal drinking age in Quebec is 18.

9. All universities in Quebec have a working pub (n.b. - all clubs and pubs stay open until 3pm. Last call: 2pm. Can it get any better than this in Canada?)

8. Where else can you go for the best smoked meat, bagels, orange julep strippers and poutine in the world? Oh yeah, and we have tons of other natural resources.

7. Quebeckers learn French (our other national language), not half-assed French like the rest of Canada, eh.

6. Quebeckers are passionate about something.

5. Quebeckers hate Celine Dion just as much as you do!

Now I ask you: why shouldn't the Queen get felt up by a French Canadian man? She's human, she has needs, she needs loving too!

4. Ever heard of Rocket Richard?

3. If it wasn't for this sovereignty thingy, what would keep the Canadian government on their toes, Preston Manning? Je ne pense pas.

2. Quebeckers can seriously psych you out if you are not nice to them while driving on any highway.

1. Quebeckers have some of the best swear words. Swear words in joual are almost entirely dependent on words taken from the Roman Catholic mass. My favourites are 'hostie' (also spelled esti) for the Host, "caulisse" for the chalice, and "tabarnak" for tabernacle.

Now I segue way back to Mr. Savage's religious and French Canadian "jackasses". I have responded to Mr. Savage formally by e-mail but I highly doubt that he will print my response in his column this week, so here it is in all its glory. Enjoy!

Cher Monsieur Savage,

Your lumping together of American religious jackasses and the French Canadians of the world puzzles me greatly. I grew up in Montreal, Quebec as an allophone (my mother tongue was neither English nor French) and although I experienced many instances where I might have called French Canadians jackasses (francophone kids would spit on my sister and I as we walked along our own street), I didn't. Know why? Because French Canadians are some of the most passionate, creative giving people in the world. Yes, they have their convictions. Yes, they are political thorns in the side of the Canadian government. BUT the French Canadians I know have made some of the best lovers, conversationalists and revolutionaries this world has ever seen! Forget about Celine Dion for a minute and think of Louis Garneau. You talk of the Queen of England and our patriotism towards the crown. Well, Mr. Garneau, a French Canadian and former champion cyclist broke protocol this past week and placed his arm around the shoulder of Queen Elizabeth II. All cheap feels aside, French Canadians are not jackasses...they might be shit-disturbers, but they certainly are not jackasses.

-Frenchynono

UTSC

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(in November)

☣SEMINARS ON GRADUATE SCHOOLS

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news

SCSU poised to join Canadian Federation of Students

by Dinesh Fernando
and Chris McKinnon

Dan Bandurka president of the SCSU held an emergency meeting of the SCSU Board of Diorectors on October 17, 2002. The reason for the meeting was to discuss UTSC's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). With the deadline for memberships drawing near there were still some matters requiring discussion with regards to SCSU's bid to join the national student lobby-group. SCSU is required to submit a notification of the intention to join CFS to the university 14 days in advance, according to SCSU by-law 2. This would give students enough time to formulate an opinion and vote on the issue. The fate of UTSC's membership in CFS will be the subject of a referendum set to take place November 5 - 7, 2002.

"It's an investment in an organization that will assist in time, to reduce tuition fees.... We don't want to pay anymore." says Bandurka.

The Canadian Federation of Students is an organization that was formed in 1981 to voice the opinions and needs of students all across Canada. They address many issues such as government funding of education, cost of living increases and student rights. CFS was the organising force behind last spring's "National Day of Action", which took place on February 6, 2002. Protests took place across Canada, in an attempt to raise public awareness of rising tuition fees due to lack of government funding. Much media-attention was given to the protests, documenting the plight of students. CFS was also an integral part of the 1989 defeat of the federal government's attempt to apply GST to tuition fees, campus residences and meal plans. They also planned the 1991 rally against the proposed imposition of a 3% tax on Canada Student Loans.

"CFS is pretty left-wing. They have some harsh statements about tuition."

More recently CFS has come under fire from other national student lobby-groups, such as CASA, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, and FEUQ, La Federation Etudiante Universitaire du Quebec, for therir extremist views. In an article written last month by Adam Grachnik of the Canadian University Press' Ottawa Bureau, CASA representatives are quoted as saying "CFS is pretty left-wing. They have some harsh statements about tuition." CFS' national chairperson is quoted as responding "[Our] position on tuition is clear and non-negotiable with other groups." CFS is well-known for its unwillingness to compromise. This has prompted some concerns that CFS' heavy-handed tactics are counter-productive to larger efforts by student lobby-groups.

CFS also provides students with the International Student Identity Card, a student health and dental insurance program and access to SWAP, a student work abroad program. The ISIC can also be used as a discount card, accepted in over 60 countries including Canada. CFS, however, does not provide these services to students free of charge. UTSC proposed membership to CFS would mean an increase in ancillary fees by $12.50.

With regard to the issue of further fees increases, SCSU President, Dan Bandurka, feels that it is a worthy cause, saying: "It's an investment in an organization that will assist in time, to reduce tuition fees.... We don't want to pay anymore."

SCSU's official statement has been in support of CFS membership, particularly the national organisation's views on issues such as increased tuition fees and cost of living expenses.

Since 1997, tuition fees have increased by as much as 126% and the average student debt at graduation has risen from $8000 to $25,000. Such increases have prompted action and lobbying by many student groups, including the Nova-Scotia Student Advocacy Coalition (NSSAC), the College Student Alliance (CSA), CASA, FEUQ and CFS.

CFS will set-up an information booth in the Meeting Place over the next few weeks to educate UTSC students about their organization and to ask students to vote for UTSC to join CFS.

SCSU releases CFS referendum question

On Monday, October 21, 2002, SCSU released the ballot for the coming referendum that will decide whether or not UTSC's student union joins the Canadian Federation of Students. The referendum is set to be held November 5 - 7, 2002.The question on the referendum ballot will read:

Are you in favour of SCSU joining CFS? Send us your thoughts, letters and opinions... email The Underground at: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

Preamble:

The Canadian Federation of Students is a national and provincial students' organization with over 450,000 members The Federation was formed in 1981 to advocate for an affordable, high quality system of post-secondary education, and to provide cost-saving services to students.

The current membership fee for the Canadian Federation of Students is $3.42 per session for full-time students or $1.71 per session for part-time students The current membership fee for the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario is $2.85 per session for full-time students or $1.43 per session for part-time students The fees are adjusted up or down each year by the rate of increase or decrease in the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the previous calendar year

By voting 'yes' below, you are indicating that you support an additional portion ($6.27 for full-time students or $3.14 for part-time students per session) to be collected with your student society fee Each student would pay the fee through the appropriate student society, either the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS), or the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)

Question:

Are you in favour of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario , as described in the preamble?

Missed an exam?

Don't forget your doctor's note!

Petitioning for a course credit or deferred exam might be more complicated than you thought...

Keescha Beauchamp explains...

What is the most important piece of reading material at UTSC? If you think it's your textbooks, you are wrong (although I do recommend them). It's the little book called the Calendar; which has more than just classes in it. Very few students actually read the back of this book, which indicates many relatively unknown rules at Scarborough, rules that each and every student should know in order to have complete success at school. Let me paint you a picture:

It's the second day of school, in my second year. I won a scholarship through my mother's work, and I had to get it endorsed by the school, so I was on ROSI to check and see if it had been cashed. My account balance was paid in full, which I found odd. So I checked my progress and noticed that I had been suspended from school for one year. I knew that I was on academic probation (whatever that meant), and that I was in the hospital during my final exam for a summer school course, so I failed that course. What I didn't know was the regulations concerning grades, petitions and appeals; these would become the whole of my life for the following semester.

As you may know, the school does have many rules and regulations which are followed to the letter. When you petition, you are asking for special permission to break a rule and it is a serious matter. You must have really good justification for this request, considering its not really fair to go about and change rules all the time. After speaking with Prof. Ian McDonald, UTSC's Associate Dean and a generally knowledgeable guy, I learned about the petitions process in ways that I wasn't already familiar. According to Professor McDonald, most of the problems that students have which lead them to petition could be avoided if they just knew the rules (do you see a theme here?). Another important document that the school provides to all students is the registration guide. This outlines many of the important dates that students must know, regarding adding classes and more importantly, dropping classes without academic penalty. Notice that these dates are not the same as the registrar's office's dates for repayment of funds. If you wish to petition to drop a class past the deadline, you need a weighty excuse. The school encourages you to know the deadlines, and seriously consider your progress. If you don't think you will pass, drop the course! As mentioned above, the repayment of fees is an issue with the registrar's office, and is not a petition-able issue.

You wake up one day feeling like crap, and not just because you have an exam. What do you do? Here at Scarborough it is recommended that you attempt the exam if you are physically able to do so. When you arrive at your exam, make sure the invigilator is aware of your illness and see a doctor that day. If you decide that your performance in the exam was impaired, then you can make a petition. Have the doctor that saw you on the day of your exam fill out a U of T Medical Certificate, found online at **www.utoronto.ca/health/medcert.pdf** . For more specific information, see the Calendar.

So you've decided to petition. Well, there are certain rules which cannot be appealed. Any term work has no basis for petitioning, as it can be dealt with by your Prof or Department Chair. Another thing that all students should be aware of is degree requirements. There are never any exceptions made for this. No, you cannot graduate a half-credit short and yes, you have to take Math A26. UTSC cannot override the decisions made by other campuses, but if you want to petition for a course taken downtown you must petition through Scarborough. Here are a few things to remember that will help make your petition stronger: **Use brief, persuasive explanations.** One page of clear and concise justification is much better than pages and pages of drivel. Think carefully about what you are writing and make sure your points are logical and well supported. **Give exact dates, references from the Calendar and Registration Guide that indicate you know the rules.** Include a medical certificate if it is a medical reason, a note from the judge if you had jury duty, or anything that proves that you were unable to be around on the day of an exam, or whatever it is that you are petitioning.

A bit on your GPA: do not let it drop below 1.6. Once you go below this magic number you get put on academic probation. If, after one term (and summer counts as one term, equal in value to fall or winter) your GPA has not risen above 1.6, you get suspended for one year. This is also clearly outlined in the Calendar.

After going through the process of petitioning, you are denied. Now what? Well if you haven't already, make an appointment with the Academic Advisors in the Career Centre. They can tell you if you have grounds for appeal, which is the next level up. Perhaps you need further documentation, in which case you can simply petition again. If you intend to appeal, however, you had better have an excellent reason. The appeals process is a little different than the petitions. The student shows up in person, and pleads his or her case. If your appeal is then denied and you still believe you are in the right, there is a third level up from the subcommittee on academic appeals, which is the governing council. Taking your case this high happens very rarely. You might just have to give up and concede that you made a mistake. UTSC is very understanding of problems that students face, and no well-documented, properly reasoned petition will be denied. If your petition has been denied then there is probably a good reason for it. The school receives approximately 2000 petitions a year, and roughly half are granted.

The take-home message from this article is to simply read the Calendar, and know the rules. If you never get yourself in a jam, then you will never have to use the information listed above. Feel free to forget about it. Yet sometimes events occur that are out of your control and you miss an exam or something similar. In that case, it would be in your best interests to know about the processes involved.

After one harrowing petition, I was denied a deferred suspension on the grounds that I should have dropped my summer course by the deadline and even still, I should have petitioned to write a deferred exam by the last day of the exam cycle. Of course, I was still in the hospital. It wasn't until my meeting with the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals that my deferred exam and suspension were granted. An exam that was supposed to be written in August 2001 was written in April 2002. And it was first year Calculus; just so you can understand how hard it was for me to relearn everything. I passed and am now trying to catch up in school by taking mostly second year courses that I could not enrol in last year. I am hoping to graduate only one semester late. All of this could have been avoided if I had just known the rules, which is why I am sharing this with the student body. Don't make the same mistake I did, and you will be fine. Good luck!

Weekly Haiku

by Sachin Hingoo

Just read "No Logo"
The world is pretty messed up
I like Big Macs though.

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U of T anime club holds screening:

Arts editor gets the bejeezus scared out of him

by Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

Now in its seventh year, UTARPA, the University of Toronto Anime and Role-Playing Association, claims to be the longest running anime club in Toronto. Last Friday night they, held their monthly anime show at the Sir Sandford Fleming Building on the St. George campus. As a long time anime fan I welcomed the opportunity to cover such an event for the paper. I wasn't, however, prepared for the level of hardcore fandom that was on display that night.

Screenings are open to members only, but membership is reasonably priced and available at the door. The six-dollar cost of a three month membership will provide a more or less solid evening of anime once a month, which is a pretty good deal. The evening's viewing began at 6: 30pm and carried on until near midnight.

Beginning with three episodes of *Slayers TRY!*, part of the well known and rather popular *Slayers* series, it became clear that the tastes of the crowd really took to the more light-hearted and slapstick style of action/comedy. And a fantasy-series about a group of sorcerers and swordsman trying to collect ancient weapons to prevent the resurrection of some ultimate destruction, well that's your general fantasy anime goodness. Fans who enjoy mild, physical comedy seemed to really get a kick out of it.

This was followed by three episodes of *Vandread*. A series about space-faring lesbian warriors who take on a trio of gay male captives and quickly learn that the only way to survive the ensuing space battles is for them all to work together. Fans of Freudian humour, thinly veiled innuendo and general perversion will have a field-day with *Vandread*'s sexual humour as the naïve males and females try to understand the leanings of the mysterious opposite gender. Discovering that their space fighters become more powerful when they combine with the lead male's battle droid leads to funny arguments beween the female pilots over who gets to 'meld' with him. For the most part *Vandread* was enjoyable, but the humour might have fared better if it was a little more subtle.

"Even if this was a series about robots playing baseball, I still wouldn't watch it"

After a short break the craziness continued with *Princess Nine*, a series about a female baseball team that... really wants to play baseball. In all honesty I can't really tell you much about this series. I blacked-out while it was running and when I came to I found out that an hour of my life had been stolen. I think the gentleman sitting behind me put it best when he said "Even if this was a series about robots playing baseball, I still wouldn't watch it". That tells you a lot about *Princess Nine*, and the kind of people that were in the audience.

"Between the unkempt organizers yelling bad jokes, the jeering of the wacky crowd and that one guy who was dressed up like a cat, I have to admit I was feeling squeamish."

Perhaps in honour of Halloween, the night wrapped up with two vampire slayer flicks. The first was a series called *Hellsing*. Starring a gunslinger named Arucard (groan) who, like all anime vampires, spends his time slaying the undead, *Hellsing* was somewhat entertaining. Aside from the jazzy piano music that accompanies Arucard every time he makes an entrance, the only real point of distinction this series has going for it is the absurdly large gun he uses to blow away the undead.

The night wrapped up with *Blood: The Last Vampire*. A short feature, also starring a demon-slaying vampire, *Blood* was probably the best thing showing that night. With a dark, offsetting atmosphere and brutal penchant for violence, *Blood* was effectively disturbing. Good art and seamless melding of animation with 3D CGI makes *Blood* an anime worth seeking out.

Aside from the actual selection of anime, let me say something about the UTARPA. I have more then a little of the obsessive nerd in me, and I'm not one to judge others for their passions, but when these people began the prize raffle during the half-way break... wow. Between the unkempt organizers yelling bad jokes, the jeering of the wacky crowd and that one guy who was dressed up like a cat, I have to admit I was feeling squeamish. These people are hardcore anime fans and they're not in the least ashamed to show it.

My advice to fans of anime looking for a place to take in some good screenings at reasonable prices is to consider what I've said so far. If you and your friends feel "passionate" about the art-form and you don't mind spending your Friday night with people who feel the same, then UTARPA is a great group to join. However if you would appreciate a milder crowd, other local clubs like animeXtreme (**http://club.animextreme.ca/**), where you can keep your smart ass remarks between you and your friends, is a reasonably priced alternative.

Check out UTARPA online at:
http://www.utarpa.org/index.html

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Academic Mentors get rez students ahead

By Geoff Micks
Life Editor

The Academic Mentoring Program is an organization where UTSC residence students can get academic help from senior students in everything from math to management, linguistics to linear algebra. Twenty-six subjects of study are covered in all. The program, which has been growing slowly over the past few years, looks to make some real success this year under the guidance of Co-coordinators Julie Harper and James Nugent. In an exclusive interview, Julie Harper said, "Last year they had, like, six people doing mentoring. You'd be lucky if you had someone come out [for help] once every three years."

When asked if there were any specific success stories, Harper cheerfully replied, "Successes? Every day's a success for AMP." She later explained, "We're trying to assist people so they can get the most out of their potential for academic greatness." The program works on a simple premise; senior students, eager for residence points to assure their continued on-campus habitation, volunteer two hours of their time each week to tutor the subjects of their choice at the Student Village Centre, near the fourth phase construction site. Any residence student seeking help need only consult the posted schedule to see when the appropriate mentor is available, and then show up.

Harper wishes to make it clear that the program seeks to cater to everyone. "This year we're doing the drop-in [sessions], more advertising, mentoring by appointment; we're trying to help people with courses not listed. We're having study night things; I don't really know how to say that."

So far student participation can be hit and miss; some subjects, like environmental science, swamp the mentor-on-duty with non-stop visits, while others, such as classical studies, have yet to have a single student seeking help.

Many mentors are also Residence Monitors, a quasi-autonomous collection of students under the command of Village Centre Director, Steve Harper, who also happens to be Julie's brother. Knowing that these Residence Monitors need to take shifts inside the Student Village Centre to make sure nothing is stolen, the AMP coordinators have generously allowed students to do their mentoring at the same time as their monitoring, giving them a double pay-off of residence points for the same two hour period. "AMP rules Rez Monitoring. You can kick people out [of the SVC] if you want." she enthuses. As for the Student Village Council's opinion of the Academic Mentoring Program, Harper, who also acts as the SVC's Speaker, admits "I don't think they have an opinion."

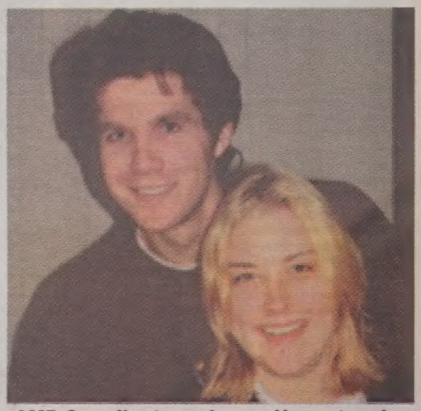
Harper and Nugent's positions are generously rewarded. Harper recalls: "I sent in a resume, filled out a cover letter, letter of intent, went to an interview, forty, sixty minutes. I sucked up a lot, just kidding." This earned them some financial compensation, on top of residence points and the satisfaction of a job well done. "Twelve dollars an hour, up to a maximum of three hours a week, so I basically earn, what, enough for a two-four?" Anyone who is a fan of Harper's weekly column in The Underground knows that the money is put to good use.

The program doesn't always enjoy such smooth sailing. What sorts of difficulties has the program had this year? Advertising is always a big thing. And then there's making sure that the Mentors show up on time. There was one instance, the day before an exam where several students were left waiting for a science Mentor and, following a frantic phone call, a housecoat-clad administrator went running out of her home in search of the appropriate Academic Mentor. The locking mechanism on the office door had also been giving some problems, but the recent issue of magnetic keycards to all the Mentors has set this difficulty right.

One complaint put forth by the Mentors is the apparent confusion as to whether or not they will be receiving AMP t-shirts, as promised. Matt Cimone, a political science Mentor, designed a logo with a pair of speakers getting blown out and a triumphant announcement: "GET AMPED!" But there is now some debate as to whether the shirts will ever become a reality. The main difficulty is the money set aside for the project. Harper explains: "See, I'm having problems with this because I don't think we need t-shirts. I think we should keep the money. (So I can take it all at the end of the year.) Just kidding." When Andrew Paranczuk, a computer science mentor, protested that he wanted his shirt, she replied, "You guys would rather have t-shirts than do something fun at the end of the year?"

The program has quickly become an asset to students, especially to first-year students. A number of houses in first-phase have copies of the AMP schedule pinned beside their door, and Harper and Nugent have worked hard to make sure everyone knows about it. "I once spent an hour in the rain telling froshies what AMP is all about," says Harper. Meanwhile, James's constant AMP related bicycle patrols became something of a spectacle in the first several weeks of the semester. The AMP organization is not out of innovative ideas yet. On the horizon are plans to bring in teaching assistants, professors, and upper-year students to give seminars on note taking, study-habits, and the importance of [exam] preparation." Harper smiles, saying, "That's a big thing AMP wants to accomplish this year."

With so many bright prospects on the future, the Academic Mentoring Program's star is clearly on the rise. Students helping students is not a new concept, but it is still good to see that people, with the incentive of rez-points, can be persuaded to help out those in need. A number of first and second year students will do better this year than would otherwise be the case, thanks to AMP.



AMP Coordinators, James Nugent and Julie Harper, have a handle on residents' academic success.

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Broken Saints

Flash series innovates internet art

In the past few years Flash movies have become an tremendous showcase for independent talent on the web. Because it is a simple program for animating still images and text with music, many young web-artists have used the Flash program to showcase their creative skills. Unfortunately, the majority of work being produced with Flash is not only amateur, but is also infantile. Crude humour and violent cartoons are the most common topic for Flash movies. Websites like newgrounds.com seek to give a home to the Flash community, but serious pieces of art are rare. It is hard to find an equal blend of technical, artistic, and writing skills needed to take full advantage of the medium.

This is one reason why Broken Saints, a project started in January of 2001 by a small team of creative talents in Vancouver, is turning so many heads. They are creating art with Flash. An episodic story, Broken Saints is a comic book-styled series of Flash movies telling the tale of four strangers spread across the world and the strange events that seem destined to bring them together. With twenty chapters and hours of running time completed, the series has nearly wrapped up, but the story is just beginning to reach its climax.

The cast of characters is a diverse lot. The four unique souls coming from different points of the world, each dealing with struggles personal, religious and societal; each haunted by similar visions of an ominous and dark future. Driven to seek answers, or in some cases shelter, from their ravaged psyches, each character sets out on a quest of discovery. As their paths slowly converge they discover more about what it is that haunts all of them and at the same time joins them together.

The art style in Broken Saints is obviously inspired by manga, but Andrew West, the talented young artist behind it, has more range then average anime. Switching between characters and global locales, BS's style alters with each character it follows. From the seedy static of the U.S. city to the quiet peace of the Japanese countryside to the ominous darkness of the open sea, BS presents every scene with a fluctuating atmosphere that maintains a definite cinematic quality throughout.

Usually using a Flash program limits the creators to a small number of visual effects like fades and scrolls. However the editing guru behind BS, Ian Kirby, is so creative with the limited tools at his disposal that the resulting effects he inspires in the art enhances the dramatic style of a given scene. The end result is an experience akin to an animated comic book, with a stylistic flare that mixes anime with western graphic novel.

With remarkable production values for its form, BS also stands out in its story. Brooke Burgess, writer/director of BS draws on a number of inspirations in creating a very ambitious plotline. Cutting through different religions and cultures between its characters, BS's remarkably well-written story is designed to challenge people's views on society and politics. I had a chance to talk to Brooke and ask him if dealing with so many issues made him nervous about misrepresenting a side of the story. "The most important thing is to approach the source material with the utmost respect, and to do the required research," he replied. "Because Broken Saints revolves around the struggle between the spiritual and the technological - between the sweeping current of the collective and the fierce potential of the individual - it was essential that the many facets of the story were shaped and polished with sincerity, accuracy, and attention to detail."

The story is definitely heavy-handed, and some people who don't like to have their entertainment preach ideals to them will likely have a problem with BS. With an admittedly anti-capitalist message, BS mixes topical society issues with a comic style and fantasy elements. You can check out the entire series at their website www.brokensaints.com. The website also contains a number of bonuses like artist bios, web games, contests and rants. A team of tech-heads, the guys at BS are taking full advantage of the having an internet based project.

Talking about the different components of BS is one thing, but it doesn't speak for the project on a whole. These different talents have merged to create a real piece of art in a deserving medium. The end result of mixing Brooke's powerful writing with Ian and Andrew's style and talent is an experience that draws the viewer in and challenges as it entertains. Inspiring, relevant and downright chilling at times, Broken Saints is a beacon of real art in the often soul crushing stupor that is the web. I highly suggest checking it out.

Check out next week's issue of The Underground for Keith Friedlander's interview with Brooke Burgess, of *Broken Saints*.

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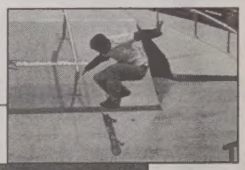
Skateboarders Descend on the Hershey Center

West 49 Skateboard Canadian Open draws 10,000



by Matt Capper

For most of us, we spent thanksgiving catching up with friends and family, relaxing and stuffing ourselves with turkey, ham and much more. While we were all doing that, about 10 000 people and 150 athletes packed the Hershey Center in Mississauga for the West 49 Skateboard Canadian Open. People came from all over the globe for this event, the first of its kind in Mississauga, just to catch a glimpse of their favorite skateboarder and maybe even get an autograph or two. With a $50 000 prize pot at stake those who showed up were not disappointed. Professional and amateur skateboarders from all over the world gave their best and the spectators got more than they might ever have at a football, hockey or basketball game.

The competition was divided into two parts, the street competition -where skaters are given one minute to do their stuff around a well designed street course and then the vert competition -this is the event that most of us know, where the skaters are given two minutes to do as much as they can on a 20 foot vert ramp. The top prize in the street competition went to Dayne Brummet from San Diego, followed closely by Rodney Jones(USA) and Chris Dobstaff(USA). In the Vert ramp, Pierre Luc-Gagnon from Montreal took first place as expected and was followed by Sandro Dias(BRA) and Anthony Furlong(USA). As for the ladies street finals, first place went to Lauren Perkins out of Huntington Beach, CA with Honolulu's Jaime Reyes in second and New Jersey's Lauren Mollica in third.

This weekends events went off with out a hitch, not surprisingly, thanks to the great organization of West 49 and Masev Communications. Along with the great skateboarding, came some really talented bands such as Montreal's The Snitches and Maestro Fresh-Wes. We also saw local band Video Dead, hailing from Burlington Ontario, really rock the house of unusual and mixed musical tastes. However Friday night proved to be the best night, music-wise, as the official launch party sold out the Opera House in Toronto. Live performances by the Bouncing Souls and Jersey provided what many of the skaters called a fun-filled night.

One of the most interesting things about this weekend was seeing the way that everyday people, skateboarders, were transformed into celebrities no matter who they were or where they were from. Standing back and watching kids swarm around the athletes for autographs was truly unreal. The most surprising of these athletes, was 9 year old Max Lambert, who was often followed around by kids twice his age, and their parents, seeking autographs to take home. We might ask if a 9 year old really even has a signature? No matter.

Kerry Getz , one of the world's best skateboarders, gave his fans a big treat when asked to sign autographs. With a simple reply of "I do not sign autographs" Kerry would stand and chat to his fans for ten or fifteen minutes. Those few who had the guts to approach him received something much better than a signature: A moment of personal contact with an idol, to cherish.

This event furhter demonstrates how skateboarding continues to evolve. It is no longer regarded as a deviant sport for little kids; and there are more skateboarders out there competing than Tony Hawk and the list of characters from his video games. The second West 49 Skateboard Canadian Open will be taking place next fall, once again at the Hershey Center.

Crimes of Opportunity...

Don't Become a Victim - Simple tips for prevention

by Cpl. Chris Moy

Every year the UTSC Police receive complaints about the loss or theft of personal property such as wallets, purses, laptop computers and gym bags. Unfortunately, many of these thefts could have been prevented. Many students feel that because they are at their school their property will be safe. This is not always the case. In the majority of instances, property is stolen when left unattended, even for a short duration of time.

Quite often, as in the case of wallet thefts, the wallet is found in a washroom, staircase or garbage receptacle sometime after the theft. Wallets are routinely turned into the UTSC Police office filled with identification and credit cards minus cash. While some of these items are eventually recovered and returned to the owner, many more are never located and must be replaced by the victim.

Replacing books and wallets that have been lost or stolen affects more than your bank account. The personal cost - the inconvenience, frustration, time and energy involved - can't be measured in monetary terms, but they are just as real. What can you do? Here are a few simple steps you can take to avert lost or stolen property:

Place your name or an identifying number inside or on your property. People commonly use their Driver's Licence number for identification purposes.

Keep desks, cabinets, lockers, rooms, and office spaces locked. This will help to prevent theft, even if you will only be away for a minute.

Never leave your bags, books or purses unattended on a table, desk, floor or in a classroom, even for a second! It doesn't take long to become a victim of a theft.

Keep a list of your valuables complete with photographs for identification and insurance purposes in the event they are lost or stolen. Use registration programs like Operation Identification or bike registration to make an official traceable record of your property.

Place only the credit cards and identification that you actually need in your purse or wallet, and secure the remainder at home. For example, if you are not leaving the country right after your visit to UTSC, you probably don't need to carry your passport with you. By limiting the number of items that you routinely carry, you also limit the number of agencies you will have to contact in the event your purse or wallet is stolen.

The UTSC Police also operate a Lost and Found Service. Students, staff and faculty are requested to turn any found items into the Police office at the main entrance to the S-Wing. A property receipt (claim tag) is issued for each identifiable or valuable item received, in order to track items. If the property is not claimed by the original owner within a 30 day period, the finder is eligible to claim, within a 15 day period, the item they turned in. This does not apply to wallets, cell phones etc. All unclaimed items are donated to charitable causes after the 45 day holding period.

UTSC Police will make every effort to contact the original owner when their property is turned in but may not be able to do so for a variety of reasons. Each year, many items such as cell phones, pagers, jackets, text books and jewellery, to name a few, go unclaimed, because there was no way to identify the owner.

If you lose something at UTSC enquire or report it to the UTSC Police office first and we will assist you in locating it.

Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility and by taking a few simple precautionary steps, you might prevent the theft or loss of your property.

For more information on this or any other crime prevention topic, contact the UTSC Police at 416-287-7398.

Christopher Adam McKinnon and the Story of illegitimate Brian Calder

Nocturnal Street Whores on Rez

Julie ' lederhosen' Harper & Sophie 'kikrikie' Nicholson

Christopher Adam McKinnon came into this world through Bob and Susie. And Yes- we have all fucked his mom. 'Francis' (his confirmation name) was born into the Amish farming community of Port Elgin, Ontario, where he became deeply religious. Our young 'Francis' never sinned, and even last year ate a Jesus fish in order to become closer to god. He believes in the monogamous love between two human beings, particularly if the female is incapacitated or has psychological disorders.

At the age of 14, Chris realized that he wasn't like the other boys. He had a third testicle (we know, just another thing to put in your mouth). He could not join in any other reindeer games, and soon lost his social ettiquette. Chris says nope to dope, and think before you drink, as he is an up and coming young athlete. Although you may not see Chris in his wiggin' baggy pants and backwards baseball hat, he does wear them, trust us, especially along with his pleather apron and slaughter gloves to the Zen lounge on Saturdays. If he is not praying at church, you'll find him hanging out with his grandmother watching the hockey game. Go Leafs Go!

From this point on, although we have taken liberties before, everything we have to say is true.

In third year Christopher had a transformation period in his life, when Gregory McKinnon (Chris' brother) appeared on his doorstep and informed him of his illegitimate son- Brian Calder. Brian Calder had no hair, and sat on his nuts all day long while being rubbed down with Vaseline. He lived with Chris in his slumlord dwelling, surrounded by cheap sex and drug addicts, much to the dismay of religious Christopher McKinnon. Brian Calder's mother- who shall remain nameless- lived in luxury, sipping on champagne, cheating on Christopher with firefighters- the likes of Sloan. Side note: "The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire"! Soon after the church found out about Chris's son- the bastard- he chose to have his son illegally baptized by priest Nicholson naming him 'Brain That Calder'.

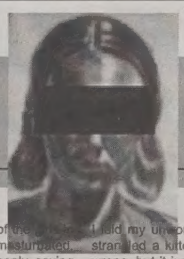
Upon a midnight dreary as Christopher McKinnon pondered weak and weary, he decided that he had had enough. He could not give his son the life he wanted. He went to the nearest Home Depot and purchased a burlap sac and some bricks. At home he contemplated the impending murder of his son-by drowning-but alas couldn't go through with it. Instead, he decided to put his only son in a basket with a newspaper for a blanket and an attached note to Brian's mother. The note read: "Mom please love Me, My Daddy hurts". He left this surprise on the doorstep of Brian's unsuspecting Mother. He tried to ring the doorbell and escape, but was caught by the cunning 'Drama Queen'. She refused to take the child in, and even speculated that she was not his mother.

There was a verbal quarrel that was eventually broken up by the R.A's on duty, as the transgression had occurred during 'quiet hours'. Chris in the end moved away with Brian to foreign lands called 'Kurzon', and is currently being raised by monks in a monastery. He is progressing nicely despite his early childhood traumatization. May God be with you Christopher and Brian. Let us bow our heads and pray.

Note: In case you hadn't guessed it Brian Calder is in actuality a Skinny Pig (hairless guinea pig) or a Scrotum with legs-We can never tell.

Our weekly words of wisdom: Our thoughts on foreigners- No strings attached Sex. So give it a tug! Think Bratwurst vs. Bacon…

The Female Masturbator: An Elusive Beast



a sex column by Ms. Black

Female masturbation; this is a highly sensitive topic for girls. Few women will even admit to self-love, yet it is something that every girl does. Unlike the male species, we don't brag about how many times per day we spank it; rather, we keep this little, socially unclean secret to ourselves. This is not something that our mothers tell us about; and it is most definitely not a part of the "birds and the bees" discussion. The subject was entirely ignored by my mother, and largely avoided by my high-school sex educators, as though girls simply didn't touch themselves at all. Sure, the boys often joked about it, bragging to each other about how much cum they could shoot, or how often they tugged it. But for some reason, girls are totally unable to share their masturbation experiences.

I remember in particular, a discussion about female masturbation in my first year on residence. First year is all about new experiences, sexual awakenings, and being open-minded, and yet no female was able to discuss their masturbatory habits. All of the guys in the room were talking about how often they jerked off, what they looked at to get themselves off, and were even able to share embarrassing stories about that time their dad/mom/grandma/younger sister walked in on them while they were masturbating. Meanwhile each of the girls in the room totally denied that they had ever masturbated. One girl was brave enough to discuss it openly, saying that it was the one thing that every girl did, but never talked about. As she went about the discussion she tried to rally support from the other girls, only to find herself alone in the conversation. No girl would admit to ever having masturbated, as if it were a dirty thing and practised only by the most sexually deviant girls. In fact, all of the young women in the room became angry at that girl for suggesting that masturbating was something that we all did. I was one of those girls who refused to admit to masturbating regularly. Granted, at the time I was living in a 10 x 14 room with another girl, and did not masturbate regularly (making for a goddamn long year), but by no means had I NOT masturbated, ever.

I probably started masturbating around the same time I got my period. It seemed horrible how good it felt. But it was touching myself "there", that place where parents and educators are always saying that no one should ever touch you, a warning that I applied even to myself. It seemed like such a holy place that maybe I shouldn't dare touch it, my clitoris like some Garden of Eden that I had been cast out of forever. Every time I held my unworthy hands on myself I felt like I'd just strangled a kitten, or something worse. I knew it was wrong, but it just felt so good. I didn't dare tell anyone about this; not my best friend, not my sister, and most certainly not my mother. If I told them what I had done, I would surely be labelled "deviant", "dirty", and a slut. I was so scared about anyone finding out about it that I tried to quit masturbating like a smoker tries to quit - cold turkey. I would count how many days I had gone without touching myself, rewarding myself for each week I went without. And yet every so often, I would break down and do it, feeling weak and horrible about myself.

It wasn't until much later (post-first year masturbation discussion, as it were) that I came to embrace my masturbatory habits. I decided that if men can be open about it, so can I. When was I ever one to back down in the face of gender inequality? If men can masturbate without shame, then so shall !! Society be damned! I'm a woman and I masturbate regularly. So what? I'm also an intelligent and moral person. I've become so comfortable with masturbating that I even bought a vibrator (something I HIGHLY recommend!) So ladies, it's time to stop being ashamed and afraid of masturbating.

After all, you know that everyone does it.

problem-solvers

problem-solvers

We have problems too...

UPSI is Sachin Hingoo and Chris McKinnon (but not Abigail Van Buren)

NOT Dear Abby

We've noticed that we're in a bit of a rut with this "Dear Abby" thing so we're taking a week or two off and trying something different. Presented here are somewhat angry letters that we've written in our heads over the past week or so. We thought it'd be a nice change of pace. Any feedback (a letter of your own, even) is appreciated – you can send it to us at make_it_stop@baldandsexy.com

Dear Producers of 'Swimfan'

Let me be the first to congratulate you on this sweeping commentary on love and obsession. I have not been so glad to spend fifteen motherfucking dollars on a movie since 'The Scorpion King'. I especially liked how you played up the fact that this movie has something to do with e-mail and computer stalking when in fact it is about swimming and a bunch useless twits. Thank you for not developing any of the pivotal characters. That often takes away from the gratuitous nudity that is characteristic of this genre. Wait, did I say gratuitous nudity? Oh I forgot, there's none in this film, despite countless opportunities for you to show a little boob. Thanks very much for casting someone totally inappropriate and banal as your male lead role. I've already forgotten his name as a matter of fact. It really helped me maintain a narrative distance and not get too involved with the characters. Speaking of which, thanks for undermining every bit of credibility that Erika Christiansen earned for her performance in 'Traffic'. She really needed to be taken down a notch and I'm sure she'll be doing movies with Jennifer Love Hewitt in no time.

I bet you're marketing this as a great 'date movie', and it sure is, if you pick up your girlfriend in a short yellow bus. I guess it's really my fault... While I wasn't exactly expecting "Boogie Nights", I was at least expecting "Urban Legend 2", which, I might add, is a far, FAR superior film in every respect. And that's saying a lot. In short, thank you for taking one hour and twenty-five minutes of my time that could have been spent doing lines of Ritalin. Four stars, and Oscars for all.

The Underground

Dear Makers of Pop Rocks

I have enjoyed your product for many years. I still remember those days of sitting out at recess in grade four, the joyful crackling of 'exploding candy' in my mouth. They definitely made a nice introduction into the vast play land that is crack-cocaine.

However, my letter is to inform you that after years of producing a quality product, Pop Rocks have, for me at least, lost the kick that they once had. There was a time that consuming an entire package of Pop Rocks would send a small child into seizures. They were so powerful that they sparked an urban legend about one's head exploding if they were mixed with Coke (no, not that kind, heh). Not so anymore. I don't know if I've developed some kind of tolerance to your candy, or if you've weakened the formula to make it more palatable to today's sensitive youth, but they just don't crackle like they used to. In the event of the latter, I hope you're not misreading your target market. People want Pop Rocks for the hurting, the same reason we want movies by Jerry Bruckheimer and novels by Amy Tan. And don't get me started on your Popeye 'candy sticks'. Who do you think you're fooling? If I wanted a candy stick, I'd roll some sugar in a doob.

The Underground

I bet you never thought we'd make fun of AMY TAN! No one is safe!

If you have a problem, some query, quandary, or pickle of any kind, please send it to: *make_it_stop@baldandsexy.com* (by the way, this is a real address).

television sucks,
what are you reading?
The Underground
FOR LESS
SAVE!
AXMITH SHOES
CENTRAL

Leafs games make me feel like home...

by Nathan Barnard

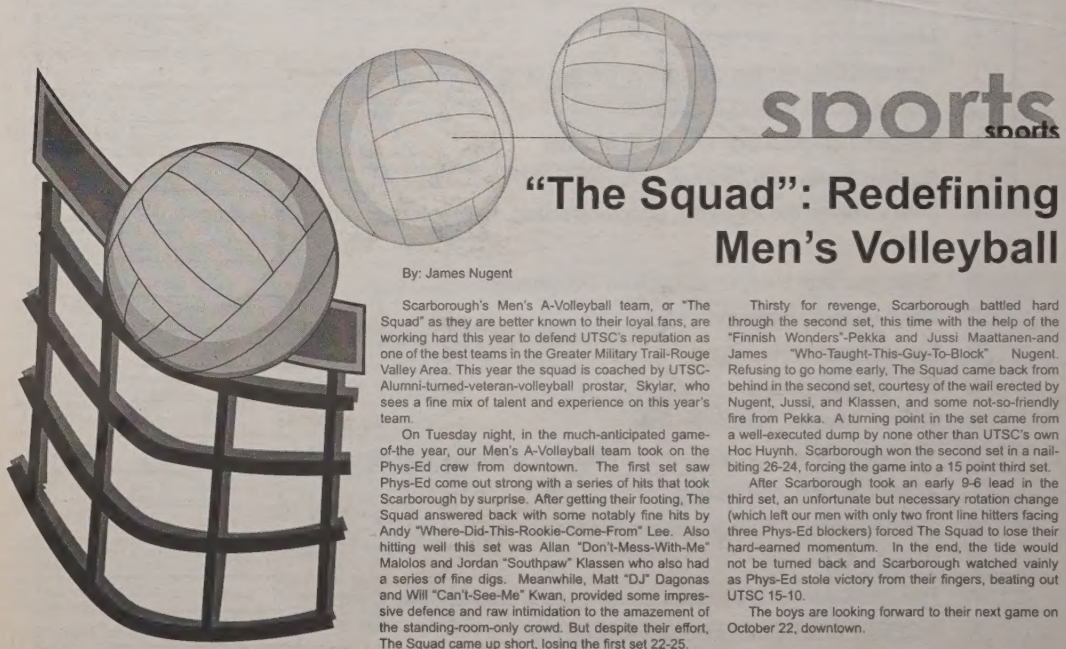
As I walked through the corridors of Union Station last Monday, I noticed something that was simultaneously comforting and eerie. Scores of bystanders were brandishing Toronto Maple Leafs jerseys and jackets, and darting around the normally crowded food-courts in the bowels of the station. At first I didn't put two and two together. Then I thought to myself, "Damn there are a lot of Leafs fans out tonight!" Suddenly common-sense kicked in and I wanted to smack myself for being so oblivious. Almost aloud I muttered "Oh, there's a game tonight, maybe I should hurry back to Rez so I can partake in the festivities." That's not something I thought I would ever say.

I am not what you would call a "big sports fan". I will occasionally engage in a few random events or pause momentarily while channel-surfing to check who's playing. But since moving to Toronto three years ago my perception has shifted, especially where the Leafs are concerned.

Now why would a person with almost no interest in sports, or the world around him for that matter, suddenly be enthusiastic enough to hurry back to Scarborough at 7:30pm in an effort to catch a bit of the game? There are several answers to this question.

Coming from a small rural town, I am, for the most part, accustomed to a notion of community and unity. Toronto, by contrast to my home town, does not exactly support such ideologies and as such it was somewhat overwhelming to me at first. The prospect of a Leafs game (and hopefully a victory) has a wonderful effect of bringing people together. Even on the subway I overheard strangers chit-chatting about new additions to the team, that night's opposition and a myriad of other subjects that seem to arise whenever fans interact. On Rez, game-night has the same effect. People who may, for one reason or another, not drop by all that often will flock to a house that has a working television and huddle around as everyone makes comments about the progress of the game. I can even recall, last year, lounging on the couch as strangers would periodically stick their heads in through the sliding glass door to inquire about the score. The Leafs seem to bring people together, break through any apprehensions and unite the fans in a massive congregation.

Another element that draws me into Hockey Night in Canada is the programme itself; it's an excellent display of Canadian spirit and nationalism. It's encouraging to realize that there are other fans that get all worked up, shout, cheer, and exert a patriotic fervour, all because the Leafs finally scored on a power play. I believe the phrase "GO LEAFS GO" should prompt people to stop and realize that hockey is more then just a silly game. It's a way for us to find a common-ground; a place where even strangers can form a bond. Hockey is more to us then just another sport. Some people claim Canadians lack an distinct cultural image, but to nay-sayers I challenge them to sit in the Air Canada Centre on a Saturday night with a full house of Leafs fans and then maintain the claim that we have no sense of identity.



"The Squad": Redefining Men's Volleyball

By: James Nugent

Scarborough's Men's A-Volleyball team, or "The Squad" as they are better known to their loyal fans, are working hard this year to defend UTSC's reputation as one of the best teams in the Greater Military Trail-Rouge Valley Area. This year the squad is coached by UTSC-Alumni-turned-veteran-volleyball prostar, Skylar, who sees a fine mix of talent and experience on this year's team.

On Tuesday night, in the much-anticipated game-of-the year, our Men's A-Volleyball team took on the Phys-Ed crew from downtown. The first set saw Phys-Ed come out strong with a series of hits that took Scarborough by surprise. After getting their footing, The Squad answered back with some notably fine hits by Andy "Where-Did-This-Rookie-Come-From" Lee. Also hitting well this set was Allan "Don't-Mess-With-Me" Malolos and Jordan "Southpaw" Klassen who also had a series of fine digs. Meanwhile, Matt "DJ" Dagonas and Will "Can't-See-Me" Kwan, provided some impressive defence and raw intimidation to the amazement of the standing-room-only crowd. But despite their effort, The Squad came up short, losing the first set 22-25.

Thirsty for revenge, Scarborough battled hard through the second set, this time with the help of the "Finnish Wonders"-Pekka and Jussi Maattanen-and James "Who-Taught-This-Guy-To-Block" Nugent. Refusing to go home early, The Squad came back from behind in the second set, courtesy of the wall erected by Nugent, Jussi, and Klassen, and some not-so-friendly fire from Pekka. A turning point in the set came from a well-executed dump by none other than UTSC's own Hoc Huynh. Scarborough won the second set in a nail-biting 26-24, forcing the game into a 15 point third set.

After Scarborough took an early 9-6 lead in the third set, an unfortunate but necessary rotation change (which left our men with only two front line hitters facing three Phys-Ed blockers) forced The Squad to lose their hard-earned momentum. In the end, the tide would not be turned back and Scarborough watched vainly as Phys-Ed stole victory from their fingers, beating out UTSC 15-10.

The boys are looking forward to their next game on October 22, downtown.

diversions

diversions

by
Kelly Lisle
& Ayshia Degia

This week team diversions has created something especially time-consuming to relieve you of your mid-term woes. We call it TV Show Alphabet. The object of the "game" is to figure out the name of a television show that matches the letter on the left, using our clues. Some of these answers are super easy; others will put you to task. We'd like to congratulate, in advance, anyone that manages to solve the whole puzzle. For those of you that get stuck, don't worry about it too much as finishing it won't benefit your life in any way. i.e. there are no prizes.

TV Show ALPHABET!

A Alien who eats cats _____

B Alan Standbridge's favourite TV show (involves vampires) _____

C Where Everybody knows your name _____

D Starring a whiney guy with a large forehead _____

E 5, 18 _____

F Olson Twins _____

G Feisty Femmes over Fifty _____

H Master of the universe _____

I Ayshia wants her ten children to be: (involves food) _____

J Answer in the form of a question _____

K Featured chicken lady and head crusher _____

L Nuclear family with "animal" son _____

M Intro involves the following: annoying music, helicopters and men in uniform _____

N Takes place in New York, involves Doughnuts _____

O Don't go there girlfriend _____

P Takes Place in Harmony _____

Q Non-straight people _____

R William Shatner, post Star Trek _____

S "No beer and no TV, make <character> something, something" _____

T 2 Days, $1000, no peeking _____

U Cartoon about a college kid and his friends _____

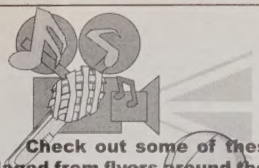
V Pamela Anderson _____

W This show ran for 9 seasons straight, each starred Tony Danza _____

X AIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE !!! _____

Y Victor, Nikki, Victoria and Nicolas are characters on this show _____

Z This show is filmed just North of Meadowvale and Ellesmere _____



events

events

Check out some of these underground events... The following is a listing of events information pillaged from flyers around the city, events websites and other low-key or hard-to-find places. If you know of an event that might benefit from a little bit of buzz (i.e. Ticketmaster is not involved) let us know by sending an email with "EVENTS" in the subject line to: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

***The Underground* and its staff do not guarantee any information printed in this listing. Do to the often sketchy nature of such events, the details are liable to change, or be outright false. Make use of any contact information provided beforehand.... and otherwise, have fun!**

Oct. 23 Victoria Women's Association presents **"Our Lady of the Birches: Methodist Mothers and Mary of Nazareth"**, feat. Rev. Dr. Peter Wyatt. Alumni Hall,121 St. Joseph Street. 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 23 - 27 ImagineNative Media Arts Festival. Various locations and times. See website for details. http://www.imaginenative.org/

Oct. 23 Choosing Your Career. Assess in writing the personal factors that help you make career decisions. 10 - 12 noon. Sign up in Rm S-302.

Oct. 24 Study Smarter, Not Harder. Learn how to get the most of out of your lectures, make effective use of your note and more. 2 - 4 p.m. For info contact 416-287-7561 or advising@utsc.utoron to.ca

Oct. 24 Exam Prep and Writing. Learn how to schedule and use your study time effectively. Learn strategies to study for, and write different types of exams. 10 - 12 noon. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoron to.ca

Oct. 25 Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies Public Lecture Series 2002-2003 presents, **Theorizing Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship,** feat. Kum Kum Bhavnani, "Re-imagining Development: Reflections from a (Socialist) Feminist," Contact for more info: info@womensbookstore.com

Oct. 25, 26; Art Nova; America in Belgrade. Isabel Bader Theatre. 93 Charles St. W. e-mail: voda.zikic@sympatico.ca

Oct. 28 Study Smarter, Not Harder. Learn how to get the most of out of your lectures, make effective use of your note and more. 2 - 4 p.m. For info contact 416-287-7561 or advising@utsc.utoron to.ca

Oct. 28 The Aboriginal Studies Distinguished Lecture Series, feat. Basil Johnston. West Hall of University College, 15 King's College Circle. 7:00 p.m

Oct. 28 Meningitis Vaccination Clinic. At UTSC, in the Meeting Place. 11 - 5 p.m. $90, Visa, MC, cash, cheque or debit. Info: 1-800-621-1146 or www.vaccess.com

Oct. 29 Time Management. Learn to schedule your time effectively and get tips on how to take control of your time and make it work for you. 11 - 1 p.m. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advisi ng@utsc.utoronto.ca

Oct. 30 Study Smarter, Not Harder. Learn how to get the most of out of your lectures, make effective use of your note and more. 5 - 7 p.m. For info contact 416-287-7561 or advising@utsc.utoron to.ca

Oct. 31 Exam Prep and Writing. Learn how to schedule and use your study time effectively. Learn strategies to study for, and write different types of exams. 2 - 4 p.m. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoronto.ca

Oct. 31 Should I Drop his Course or Not? Make informed decisions about withdrawing from courses. 10 - 12 noon. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 1 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE. Vampyr. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 1 Should I Drop his Course or Not? Make informed decisions about withdrawing from courses. 10 - 12 noon. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 3 Nikki Enfield, soprano, performs at Hart House. The Great Hall, 3 - 5 p.m. 7 Hart House Circle. For info call: 416-978-2452.

Nov. 4 Time Management. Learn to schedule your time effectively and get tips on how to take control of your time and make it work for you. 2 - 4 p.m. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising @utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 5 Choosing Your Career. Assess in writing the personal factors that help you make career decisions. 11 - 1 p.m. Sign up in Rm S-302.

Nov. 6 Jeanette Winterson, internationally acclaimed author reads from her latest novel The Power-Book (Random house). Young Peoples Theatre, 165 Front St. East Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. 7:00p.m. Call 416-922-8744

Nov. 7 Fourth Annual S.D. Clarke Lecture in Sociology feat. Charles Tilly, Joseph L. Buttenweiser, Professor of Social Sciences at Columbia University. Auditorium, University of Toronto Schools, 371 Bloor Street West Time: TBA

Nov. 7 Vic Chorus Concert, Victoria College Chapel, 8:00 p.m.

Nov. 7 Woodsworth Fall Lecture: The Good, The Bad & The Profiled: Race, Deviant Behaviour & Police Stop-and-Search Practices. Feat. Professor Scot Wortley, University of Toronto Centre of Criminology, Bissell Building room 205. 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Information: 416.978.5301.

Nov. 7 - 27 Conscious Eating: A Transformational Course for Women. w/ Annahid Dashtgard. 6 - 8p.m. $40, register at the Toronto Women's Bookstore. info@womensbookstore.com

Nov. 8. Friday Workshop Series, feat. Ian Sloan. Northrop Frye Hall, 73 Queen's Park, Room 205. 3:15 p.m

Nov. 8 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE - The Taiwanese Series. Yi Yi: A One and a Two... Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 8 Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies Public Lecture Series 2002-2003 presents **Theorizing Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship,** feat. Jacqui Alexander, "The State and the Making of Sexual Citizens" For more info contact: info@womensbookstore.com

Nov. 10 Signs of Hope in the Middle East. Conference, afternoon session at 14:30
OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor Street W Free! Speakers include: Prof. Atif Kubursi, Economics, "The background of the conflict"; Prof. Elia Zureik, "The Palestinian refugees"; Rula Sharkawi, "A visit to women in Israel and the West Bank"; Henry Lowi, "The Israeli public at the crossroads".

Nov. 10 Signs of Hope in the Middle East. Conference, evening session at 20:00
Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor Street W. Speaker: **Noam Chomsky, "Prospects for Peace: Hopes and Barriers."** $10, tickets available only in advance from the Toronto Women's Bookstore, no telephone reservations.

Nov. 12 Study Smarter, Not Harder. Learn how to get the most of out of your lectures, make effective use of your note and more. 11 - 1 p.m. For info contact 416-287-7561 or advising@utsc.utoron to.ca

Nov. 12 Alumni of Victoria College Seminar "Is Canada Fading from the American Consciousness" with Marci MacDonald. Admission $10 for Scarlet & Gold Members, $20 for non-members, contact the Vic Alumni Office to register at 416-585-4500.

Nov. 12 Friends of the Library: An Illustrated Lecture "Authors, Editors, Compilers: Formation of Sacred Texts - The Bible and Beyond." Speaker: Dr. Sol Nigosian, Victoria College, 91 Charles St. W., Room 115, 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 13 Exam Prep and Writing. Learn how to schedule and use your study time effectively. Learn strategies to study for, and write different types of exams. 5 - 7 p.m. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 14 Choosing Your Career. Assess in writing the personal factors that help you make career decisions. 10 - 12 noon. Sign up in Rm S-302.

Nov. 15 Public Lecture "The Saunders Portrait: Why Does it Matter?" Speaker: Alexander Leggatt. Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles S. W. 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 15 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE - The Taiwanese Series. He Liu [The River]. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 18 Exam Prep and Writing. Learn how to schedule and use your study time effectively. Learn strategies to study for, and write different types of exams. 2 - 4 p.m. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advising@utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 18 The Aboriginal Studies Distinguished Lecture Series, feat. Marie Campbell. West Hall of University College, 15 King's College Circle. 7:00 p.m

Nov. 18 "Gender and race in Writing" feat. Shani Mootoo, the author of the award-wining Cereus Blooms at Night in discussion with Jean Noble and Trish Salah. University College room 179. 15 King's College Circle. 7:30 p.m

Nov. 20 Time Management. Learn to schedule your time effectively and get tips on how to take control of your time and make it work for you. 10 - 12 noon. For info contact: 416-287-7651 or advisi ng@utsc.utoronto.ca

Nov. 22 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE - The Taiwanese Series. Hsi Yen [The Wedding Banquet] Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 25 The University Professor Lecture Series, feat. Martin Friedland. "Reflections: A History of the University of Toronto"
Location: Northrop Frye Hall, 73 Queen"s Park. 7:00 p.m

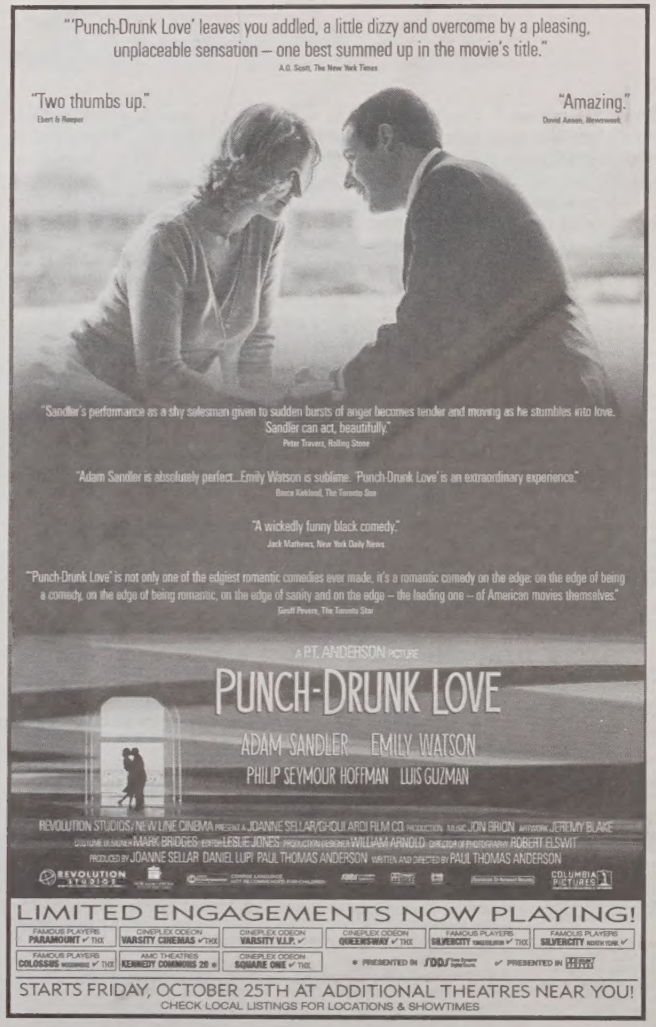
Nov. 27 Victoria Women's Association presents **"The New Program for First Year Students"** Speaker: Dr. David Cook, Principal, Victoria College. Alumni Hall, 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. See website for more details. http://www.reelasian.com/

Nov. 30 End of Term Party This event will celebrate the affiliation of the Toronto Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies with the Sexual Diversity Studies Program and the launch of several scholarships for Sexual Diversity Studies Students. Come and meet other faculty and students who are associated with the program. 5:00p.m.-8:30p.m. University College Room 240

Dec. 6. Friday Workshop Series, feat. Mark Crane, "The Use of bonae literae in Sixteenth-Century France". Northrop Frye Hall. 73 Queen's Park, Room 205. 3:15 p.m.

Dec. 6 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE. Meet Me in St. Louis. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.



queer corner

Building upon the successes of ***Bent On Change 2000: Rethinking Queer Issues on Campus*** and in Communities, the Bent On Change II Conference Steering Committee is pleased to announce...

Beyond Tolerance:
Rethinking Queer Issues on Campus and in Communities for November 1 & 2, 2002.

With joint leadership from Ryerson University, York University and the University of Toronto, Bent On Change II will explore the theme of Beyond Tolerance on Campus and in Communities. Tolerance continues to be the predominant response of the mainstream to challenges from oppressed and marginalized communities. Bent On Change II will explore problems associated with the politics of both intolerance and tolerance and will generate ideas about how LGBTQ-identified individuals, groups and allies can empower universities and communities to move beyond tolerance.

Delegates from across Canada and the United States will gather to hear many presenters and keynote speakers Zahra Dhanani, Immigration/ Human Rights lawyer and activist, and Queer theorist Rinaldo Walcott from the University of Toronto. Amongst others topics include:

**Sex In & Out of the Classroom;*
**Risk, Representation & Resistance: Organizing in Black Queer Community;*
**Students Dealing with Marginalization;*
**Class Passing in the Queer Communities;*
**(Trans) People of Colour and Two-Spirit People: Fighting Racism & Transphobia & Homophobia In Our Community (open to People of Colour and Two Spirit People only).*

For Conference Registration and more information:

Visit the Website and Register:
http://bentonchange.tripod.com

or
Email:
bentonchange@lycos.com

Get the Underground Online...
all the cool kids are doing it...

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~undergnd/